

MR. PHILIP CROWLEY exhibited two eggs of Paradise-birds which had been obtained on Mount Victoria, British New Guinea. One of these was stated to be undoubtedly an egg of *Paradisea raggiana*.

MR. HOWARD SAUNDERS read an extract from a letter received from Mr. Heatley Noble, in which the latter described the breeding of the Scaup Duck (*Fuligula marila*) in Sutherlandshire.

LI.—Notices of recent Ornithological Publications.

[Continued from p. 466.]

87. *Andersen on the Birds of the Faeroes.*

[Meddelelser om Færøernes Fugle med særligt Hensyn til Nolsö. 2den Række. Efter skriftlige Oplysninger fra P. F. Petersen, Nolsö. Ved Knud Andersen. Vidensk. Meddel. naturh. Foren. i Kbhvn. 1899, p. 239.]

This is a supplement to a previous paper on the same subject (see *Ibis*, 1898, p. 614), and contains an account of the birds observed in the Faeroes in 1897 and 1898. Eighty-four species are recorded from Nolsö, and a few from the other islands.

88. *Brewster on a new Clapper-Rail.*

[An undescribed Clapper-Rail from Georgia and East Florida. By William Brewster. Proc. New Engl. Zool. Club, i. p. 49 (1899).]

Mr. Brewster describes *Rallus crepitans waynei*, of the South Atlantic coast, as a new subspecies of the more northern *R. c. typicus*.

89. *Chomiakoff on the Nesting of Terekia cinerea.*

[Ueber das Nisten des Terekwasserläufers (*Totanus terekius* Lath.) im Kassimow'schen Distrikt des Rjäsaner Gouvernements. Von M. Chomiakoff. Bull. Soc. Imp. d. Nat. Moscou, 1898, p. 191.]

The Terek Sandpiper, according to some authorities, is an "Arctic species, breeding in the north of Europe and Asia." The author shows that this is not strictly accurate, as Prof. Bogdanoff and other Russian naturalists have ascertained that

it nests in the valleys of the Volga and Ural rivers. He has, moreover, lately found eggs and young in another locality, on the Oka in the Government of Riazan, to the south of Moscow, and his discoveries are now described at full length.

90. *Crossman on the Birds of Hertfordshire.*

[A List of the Birds of Hertfordshire. By Alan F. Crossman, F.L.S. Trans. Hertf. N. H. Soc. x. p. 86 (1899).]

There being hitherto no list of the Birds of Hertfordshire in existence, Mr. Crossman has compiled the present, chiefly from various reports that have appeared from time to time in the Transactions of the Hertfordshire Natural History Society and other publications. Some of the records, Mr. Crossman observes, are open to doubt and require confirmation. The number of species in the list is 216. The only example of the Rock-Thrush (*Monticola saxatilis*) known to have occurred in Great Britain was obtained at Therfield, in Hertfordshire, in May 1843.

91. *Finsch on new Birds from Batu, Sumbawa, and Alor.*

[On three apparently new Species of Birds from the Islands Batu, Sumbawa, and Alor. By Dr. O. Finsch. Notes Leyden Mus. xx. p. 224.]

From specimens in the Leyden Museum Dr. Finsch describes as new the following species:—*Pachycephala vandeplli*, from the Batu Islands; *Geoffroyus lansbergii*, from Sumbawa; and *Trichoglossus aloreensis*, from Alor.

92. *Finsch on the Thrushes of Java.*

[*Merula javanica* (Horsf.) and *M. fumida* (S. Müll.) two distinct Species. By Dr. O. Finsch. Notes Leyden Mus. xx. p. 227.]

It is shown that *Merula javanica* is different from *M. fumida*, and that there are three species of Thrushes in the highlands of Java, distinguishable by slight, but apparently constant, characters. These are:—*Turdus javanicus*, from Mount Tjerimai, in Western Java; *T. fumidus*, from Mount Gedé, Western Java; and *T. whiteheadi*, from Mount Tosari, in Eastern Java.

93. *Hartert on Humming-birds.*

[Further Notes on Humming-birds. By Ernst Hartert. *Novitates Zool.* vi. p. 72.]

In this paper on Humming-birds Mr. Hartert characterizes *Spathura underwoodi bricensis* as a new subspecies from Merida, and *Metallura smaragdinicollis septentrionalis* and *Chalcostigma ruficeps aureofastigiatum* as two new subspecies from Northern Peru; he also makes remarks on various species of *Eriocnemis* and *Psalidoprymna*.

94. *Hartert on Birds from Rossel Island.*

[On the Birds collected by Mr. Meek on Rossel Island in the Louisiade Archipelago. By Ernst Hartert. *Novitates Zool.* vi. p. 76.]

We have now a complete list of the 36 species of birds of which Mr. Meek has obtained examples for the Tring Museum, in Rossel Island. This is the most eastern of the Louisiade group, and Mount Rossel is nearly 3000 feet in height. Mr. Hartert has already described some of the new species in the Bulletin of the B. O. C., but he now adds to the list *Rhipidura louisiadensis*, *Gerygone rosseliana*, and *Geoffroyus aruensis cyanocarpus*. The most remarkable bird of Rossel Island is the *Pitta* (*P. meeki* Rothsch.), which is allied to *P. mackloti*, but has no black gular spot.

95. *Neumann on the Avifauna of German and British East Africa.*

[Beiträge zur Vogelfauna von Ost- und Central-Africa. Theil ii. Von Oscar Neumann. *Journ. f. Orn.* 1899, p. 33.]

The second part of Herr Oscar Neumann's account of the birds collected during his East African expedition of 1892-5 relates to the Vultures, Falcons, Owls, Parrots, and Touracous, of which he either obtained specimens or identified the species by observation. Many interesting field-notes, besides corrections of nomenclature and other remarks, are introduced into this paper. Of the Falconidæ, the two least known species seem to be *Astur sparsim-fasciatus*—a near relative of *A. tachiro*—of which a single specimen (the second known)

was obtained in Zanzibar, and *Falco fasciinucha*—allied to *F. cuvieri*—from Teita, British East Africa, of which a good coloured figure is given. Among the Owls, *Pisorhina ugandæ* is characterized as a new species allied to *P. capensis*. Herr Neumann met with a small flock of *Psittacus erithacus* in Kwa Kitoto, in Kavirona, on the east shore of the Victoria Lake—the most easterly point of its occurrence yet recorded—and found it abundant among the banana-gardens of Ussoga, north of the Lake. In addition to *Agapornis pullaria*, examples of two other “Love-birds,” namely *A. fischeri* and *A. personata*, were obtained. Herr Neumann met with no fewer than 10 species of Musophagidæ; the rarest of these being *Turacus chalcophue*, lately discriminated by Herr Neumann from *T. livingstonii*, and *T. schalowi*, which was found in the Gurui Mountains and other neighbouring localities in German East Africa.

96. Neumann on new or little-known African Birds.

[Neue und wenig bekannte afrikanische Vögel. Von Oscar Neumann. Ornith. Monatsb. vii. 1899, p. 17.]

Herr Neumann characterizes as new :—*Zosterops jacksoni*, from the Mau plateau; *Z. scotti*, from Ruwenzori; *Cinnyris mariquensis hawkeri*, from Somaliland; *Nectarinia jacksoni*, from Mau and Kikuyu; *Pæocephalus meyeri erythreæ*, from Bogos; *P. meyeri transvaalensis*, from the Transvaal; *Numida somaliensis*, from Somaliland; and *N. transvaalensis*, from the Transvaal.

97. Neumann on certain Species of Nigrita.

[Die schwarzstirnigen *Nigrita*-Arten. Von Oscar Neumann. Ornith. Monatsb., April 1899.]

After a closer examination of the curious Passerine bird obtained in 1895 on Mount Kilimanjaro, and for which the author and Prof. Reichenow proposed the name *Atopornis diabolicus*, Herr Neumann has come to the conclusion that this is simply the young of a species of *Nigrita*, which was subsequently described by Prof. Reichenow as *N. kretzschmari* (Orn. Monatsb. 1898, p. 187). Herr Neumann takes this oppor-

tunity of giving a synopsis of the five known species of this aberrant group of thin-billed Ploccidæ.

98. *Oates's Game-Birds of India.*

[A Manual of the Game-Birds of India. Part II. Water-birds. By E. W. Oates. 12mo. Bombay, 1899.]

The second volume of Mr. Oates's handy little Manual of the Game-birds of India (the first part of which we have already noticed, *Ibis* 1898, p. 306) is now before us, and fully deserves all the commendation we have bestowed on its predecessor. It treats of the 37 Anseres and 7 Limicolæ which occur within the limits of the Indian Empire. Much new matter is introduced into Mr. Oates's account of the Anatidæ, which deserves the careful attention of all ornithologists interested in the group. A Goose from Japan, *Anser mentalis*, is described as new.

99. *Salvadori on Birds from British New Guinea.*

[Viaggio di Lamberto Loria nella Papuasìa Orientale.—Intorno ad una Piccola Collezione di Uccelli fatta lungo il Fiume Purari nella Nuova Guinea Orientale-Meridionale. Per Tommaso Salvadori. Ann. Mus. Civ. Stor. Nat. Genova, ser. 2, xix. p. 578.]

Count Salvadori writes on the birds collected by Dr. L. Loria on the Purari River, British New Guinea, in 1894. The 26 specimens are referred to 23 species, of which one, *Ptilotis diops*, is new, and another (*Rhectes*) is doubtfully distinct, but it is nearest to *R. analogus* Meyer.

100. *Salvadori and Festa on Birds from Darien.*

[Viaggio del dott. E. Festa nel Darien e regioni vicine. T. Salvadori ed E. Festa. Uccelli. Boll. Mus. Zool. ed Anat. Comp. R. Univ. Torino, xiv. No. 339.]

The collection of birds made by Dr. Festa at Darien, Chiriqui, and other places in the vicinity consists of 202 specimens, referable to 121 species, of which a list is now given. One of these (*Rhamphocælus festæ*) has been already described as new. Two others, *Eudocimus albus* and *Chrysotis inornata*, are new to the district.

101. *Saunders's 'Manual of British Birds.'*

[An Illustrated Manual of British Birds. Second Edition, revised and enlarged. Parts VI.-XX. 8vo. London, 1899.]

This work, which was noticed up to Part V. in 'The Ibis' for 1898 (p. 307), was completed in June. In Parts VI.-XX. new articles, with illustrations by Mr. G. E. Lodge, are given of the Siberian Meadow-Bunting, Gyr-Falcon, Caspian Plover, Madeiran Fork-tailed Petrel, Frigate Petrel, Collared Petrel, Black-browed Albatross, and Radde's Bush-Warbler (p. 73*); a new figure and description of the Little Dusky Shearwater are substituted for those of *Puffinus obscurus*; and articles on the Rufous Turtle-Dove, Siberian Pectoral Sandpiper, Yellow-legged Herring-Gull, and Levantine Shearwater are added, although those four species are not figured, because of their close resemblance to species already illustrated. Almost at the last moment the American Spotted Sandpiper was added to the list (p. 605*), and the original figure from 'Yarrell's British Birds' was utilized. Fresh illustrations by Mr. Lodge are substituted for those in the 1st edition of the Short-eared Owl, Tawny Owl, Golden Eagle, Honey-Buzzard, Peregrine Falcon, Osprey, Little Bittern, Mallard, Black-headed Gull, White-billed Northern Diver, Black-throated Diver, and Red-throated Diver.

"Of the 384 species now described, those which have bred within the United Kingdom during the present century may be taken as 199 (if the extinct Great Auk is included); about 74 non-breeding wanderers have occurred fewer than six times, and 66 others are more or less infrequent visitors; while 45 species annually make their appearance, on migration or during the colder months, in some portion of our long, narrow group of islands or upon the surrounding waters."

Three new coloured maps are added, and of these the North Polar chart embodies the latest discoveries by Dr. Nansen and others. The printed additions to our knowledge since the 1st edition was published in 1889, as well as the cordial assistance privately rendered, have led to important alterations (especially as regards geographical distribution) in a very large number of the articles.

102. Seebohm's 'Monograph of the Thrushes.'

[A Monograph of the Turdidæ, or Family of Thrushes. By the late Henry Seebohm. Edited and completed (after the Author's death) by R. Bowdler Sharpe, LL.D., F.L.S., &c. Part VI. Imperial 4to. London: Henry Sotheran & Co., 1899.]

The following species are figured in the sixth part of the Monograph of the Thrushes, which advances steadily towards completion:—*Turdus confinis*, *T. migratorius*, *T. rufiventer*, *T. magellanicus*, *T. falklandicus*, *T. flavirostris*, *T. graysoni*, *T. chiguanco*, *T. tephronotus*, *T. olivaceus*, *T. abyssinicus*, *T. elgonensis*.

The present part begins with the "Robin" group of North America—*Turdus migratorius* and its allies—and then passes to the South-American *T. rufiventer* and *T. magellanicus*; but we do not quite understand how *T. chiguanco* comes in here, for its true place is surely near *T. fuscater* and *T. gigas*. The monograph then proceeds to the African group which is typified by *T. olivaceus*, and four species are figured.

103. Stone on Birds in the Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia.

[A Study of the Type Specimens of Birds in the Collection of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, with a brief History of the Collection. By Witmer Stone. Proc. Ac. Nat. Sci. Philad. 1899, p. 5.]

This is a useful and important paper, containing a complete list of the *types* in the famous collection of birds belonging to the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, and a good historical account of the way in which the collection was formed. In 1856 it was stated by Selater, who had devoted several weeks to its examination, that, in his opinion, this collection of birds was superior to that of any other museum then existing. Among the many liberal contributors to this splendid series, which was estimated in 1860 to contain some 26,000 specimens, the chief donor was the late Dr. Thomas B. Wilson, at one time President of the Philadelphia Academy. Dr. Wilson purchased in Europe the large collection of Victor Masséna, Duc de Rivoli, the Bourcier collection of Parrots and Tanagers, the large col-

lection of Australian birds upon which Gould had based his great work, and Capt. Boys's Indian collection, besides a number of other smaller lots and scattered specimens. All these specimens were remounted by Verreaux frères, at that time the largest and best-known firm of natural-history dealers in Europe, and transmitted to the shelves of the Academy's Museum, where they were arranged and studied by Cassin. Unfortunately no care was taken to raise a fund for the support of a curator of this magnificent series, so that, after the death of Dr. Wilson in 1865 and of Cassin in 1869, all work on it ceased until recently, when the author of the present paper took up the subject. It being now universally acknowledged that it is worse than useless to keep valuable specimens mounted and exposed to the light, except such as are required for exhibition to the general public, we are pleased to learn that, when the rearrangement of the Academy's collection was commenced in 1891, it was wisely determined to unmount all the types and valuable specimens, as well as many of the duplicates, and to place them in cabinets, while leaving an ample exhibition series of about 10,000 specimens still unmounted. The total number of specimens in the Academy's collection in 1898 was reckoned at 43,460. Mr. Stone now gives us a complete list of the types in the collection, arranged under the names of the authors who have described them, and appends many critical and useful remarks. A complete catalogue of Gould's Australian Collection, we are told, has been prepared in MS., and may be published later on.

104. *Tegetmeier on the House-Sparrow.*

[The House-Sparrow (The Avian Rat), in relation to Agriculture and Gardening, with Practical Suggestions for lessening its Numbers. By W. B. Tegetmeier, F.Z.S. With an Appendix by Eleanor A. Ormerod, F.E.S. Svo. Vinton & Co.: London, 1899.]

The views of our friend Mr. Tegetmeier on the desirableness of limiting the numbers of the House-Sparrow (*Passer domesticus*) in this country are well known, and his pamphlet on the subject, written in conjunction with Miss Ormerod, has

achieved a circulation of some 36,000 copies. Numerous applications for further details having been received, Mr. Tegetmeier has prepared the present volume of 90 pages on the subject. It contains chapters on the history of the Sparrow; on the opinions of ornithologists and farmers, who are now nearly all agreed as to its detrimental qualities far exceeding any good it may do in destroying noxious insects; and on the various modes of limiting its increase. Although we are strongly in favour of the protection of bird-life in general, an exception appears to be necessary in this instance, at any rate in certain localities, and, along with rats and rabbits, Sparrows must be condemned as *hostes humani generis*. It is well known that the same conclusion has been long ago reached in North America, where the subject of this introduced species has been carefully studied by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

105. *Wilson and Evans's 'Aves Hawaiienses.'*

[*Aves Hawaiienses*: the Birds of the Sandwich Islands. By Scott B. Wilson, F.Z.S., assisted by A. H. Evans, M.A., F.Z.S. Part VII., June 1899. 4to. London: R. H. Porter.]

We heartily congratulate the authors of the '*Aves Hawaiienses*' on having brought their work to a successful conclusion. This present final part contains an excellent introductory essay on the history of the gradual discovery of this strange avifauna, which, as we now know it, contains 53 Passeres, one Accipiter, two Anseres, one Limicola, and four Ralli (of which two are now extinct) peculiar to the island-group, and it presents a problem in geographical distribution which it is very hard to solve.

The following species are figured in the present part:—*Œstrelata phaopygia*, *Himantopus knudseni*, *Viridonia sagittirostris*, *Himatione maculata*, *Pennula sandvicensis*, *P. wilsoni*, *Sterna hawaiiensis*.